

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 19, 2006. Claims 1-13 and 16-20 are pending.

Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kubo in view of Kim. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires that “the first electrode includes, *in each of the plurality of picture element regions, a plurality of unit solid portions arranged in a first direction so that for the first electrode the unit solid portions are arranged only in the first direction*, whereby the liquid crystal layer takes a substantially vertical alignment in the absence of an applied voltage between the first electrode and the second electrode.” For example and without limitation, Fig. 1A illustrates for a given pixel electrode 14 three unit solid portions 14a of the pixel electrode being arranged in a line *only* in the first direction. See also Figs. 5, 7-10, and so forth, of the instant application as additional examples. The arrangement *in a line* of multiple (two, three or more) unit solid portions 14a of an electrode in a picture element region is advantageous, for example and without limitation, in that this permits an increase of an area ratio of the unit solid portion(s) and an increase of the proportion of the area that contributes to the display with respect to the total area of the picture element region (e.g., see paragraphs 0142-0147 of the instant application). This may permit the aperture ratio to be increased.

Kubo *fails* to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 1. In particular, Fig. 1A of Kubo discloses a 3×3 *matrix* of nine interconnected unit solid portions 14b. Because the nine connected unit solid portions 14b in Fig. 1A of Kubo are arranged in the form of a matrix, they

are not arranged *only in the first direction* as required by claim 1. Moreover, for example and without limitation, Kubo fails to disclose or suggest an in-line arrangement for a purpose of increasing aperture ratio.

Claim 18

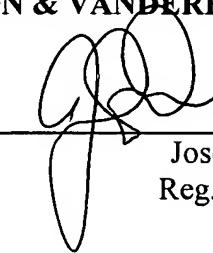
Claim 18 requires that “the first electrode includes, in each of the plurality of picture element regions, a plurality of *unit solid portions arranged only in a first direction.*” Kubo fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 18. In particular, Fig. 1A of Kubo discloses a 3×3 matrix of nine interconnected unit solid portions 14b. Because the nine connected unit solid portions 14b in Fig. 1A of Kubo are arranged in the form of a matrix, they are not arranged *in a first direction* as required by claim 18.

Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100